

IN THE CLAIMS:

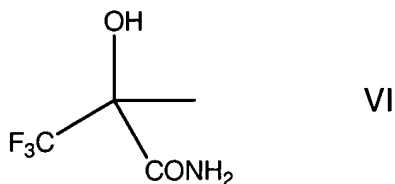
Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-25 (canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence

which:

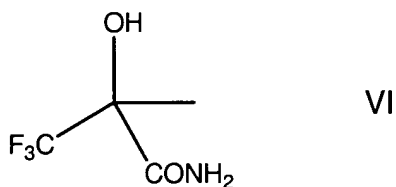
- (i) hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID ~~NO:1No. 1~~, wherein said stringent hybridization conditions include hybridization at temperatures of between 60°C and 70°C and a salt content of 0.5 to 1.5 M; and
- (ii) encodes a polypeptide having amidohydrolase activity capable of hydrolyzing (R) -3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methylpropionamide of the formula:



27. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule capable of encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID ~~NO:2No. 2~~.

28. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID ~~NO:1No. 1~~.

29. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule capable of encoding a functionally equivalent variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. ~~2~~NO:2 wherein said variant retains the ability to hydrolyse (R) -3,3,3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methylpropionamide of the formula:



30. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 wherein the functionally equivalent variant is selected from the group consisting of a deletion, insertion or substitution of nucleotide sequences.

31. (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid molecule of claim 26 wherein said molecule is further comprising a Hind III fragment which contains nucleotide sequences which:

~~(i) hybridize under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 1 wherein said stringent hybridization conditions include hybridization at temperatures of between 60°C and 70°C and a salt content of 0.5 to 1.5 M; and~~

~~(ii) are characterized by the restriction map as shown in Figure 1.~~

32. (Currently Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 25,26,27,28,29, or 30 ~~or 31~~.

33. (Currently Amended) The recombinant vector of claim 26~~claim 31~~ wherein said vector is pPRS7.

34. (Currently Amended) The recombinant vector of claim 26~~claim 31~~ wherein said vector is pPRS4.

35. (Currently Amended) The recombinant vector of claim 26~~claim 31~~ wherein said vector is pPRS2a.

36. (Currently Amended) A microorganism containing the recombinant vector of claim 26, ~~31~~, 32, 33, 34, or 35.

37. (Previously Presented) The microorganism of claim 36 wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of the genus *Escherichia*, *Pseudomonas*, *Comamonas*, *Acinetobacter*, *Rhizobium*/ *Agrobacterium*, *Rhizobium*, *Bacillus*, *Rhodococcus* or *Agrobacterium*.

38. (Previously Presented) The microorganism of claim 37 wherein said *Escherichia coli* is *Escherichia coli* DH5.

39. (Previously Presented) The microorganism of claim 38 wherein said *Escherichia coli* is XL1-Blue MRF'®.